GATEPATH
100 YEARS OF IMPACT

INSPIRE

Spring 2020 Newsletter

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!

Power of Possibilities - May 14, 2020

On **May 14, 2020**, we will be hosting a centennial celebration at our annual ***Power of Possibilities*** event. We will commemorate Gatepath's 100th anniversary and the Gatepath Auxiliary's 70th anniversary. Together, we have been serving the needs of children and adults with special needs and developmental disabilities. At this extraordinary event, we will reflect on all we've accomplished with the support of our community and look forward to our next 100 years. In honor of this momentous occasion, we are thrilled to announce our keynote speaker Dr. Temple Grandin and host Henry Winkler.

Dr. Temple Grandin, Ph.D., is a very accomplished professor, lecturer and advocate for neurodiversity. Her fascinating and inspiring life was brought to the screen in the HBO full-length film *Temple Grandin*, starring Claire Danes.

Dr. Grandin has developed a very successful career as a speaker, professor and livestock-handling equipment designer. She is a professor of animal science at Colorado State University and she speaks around the world on a wide array of topics, including autism.

Henry Winkler is an Emmy Award-winning actor, author, director, and producer. He has enjoyed over four decades of success in Hollywood. A 1973 audition forever changed his life when Winkler was cast in the iconic role of Arthur Fonzarelli, aka "The Fonz," in the TV series *Happy Days*, for which he won two Golden Globe Awards. Winkler currently co-stars as acting teacher Gene Cousineau on the hit HBO comedy *Barry*. The role garnered him an Emmy Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy. Winkler is also a New York Times best-selling author. His books and passion for supporting others were inspired by a lifetime struggle with undiagnosed dyslexia.

Gatepath's *Power of Possibilities* event brings our community together to celebrate acceptance, respect and inclusion. A highlight of the evening is recognizing the Neal Poppin Award recipient. The award is presented to an individual who has inspired others by achieving their employment goals. The evening will also include a cocktail reception, raffle, auction and musical entertainment. We hope to see you there!

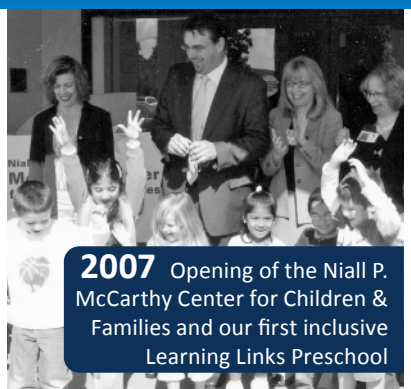
Buy tickets or sponsor at:

Gatepath.org/POP

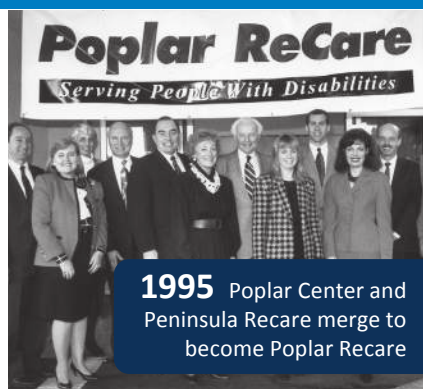
GATEPATH THROUGH THE YEARS

2020 Celebrating 100 years of serving the community

2019 Abilities United became affiliated with Gatepath



2007 Opening of the Niall P. McCarthy Center for Children & Families and our first inclusive Learning Links Preschool



1995 Poplar Center and Peninsula Recare merge to become Poplar Recare

CEO CORNER

Dear Friends,

2020 isn't just the start of a new decade for our organization, it's the start of a new century! As we celebrate our 100th anniversary, we're extremely proud of our accomplishments and we're extremely grateful to all who've helped us make an impact on the lives of those with special needs and developmental disabilities in our community.

When looking back at all we've accomplished over the past 100 years, the unwavering passion for our mission of inclusion and the longstanding dedication and support from our community and staff have enabled our successes.

Since it was established in 1920, Gatepath has been a cornerstone of our community. We have seen a lot of change over the past hundred years. We have been here through the Prohibition era, the Great Depression, WWII, the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Disabilities Rights Movement, Apollo 11 landing on the moon, and the Great Recession of the early 2000s.

It's thanks to staunch advocates like you that we've been able to advance inclusion and equality in our community throughout these pivotal moments in history. Here are some of the key accomplishments we've achieved by working together.

- Developed employment opportunities with hundreds of Bay Area business partners
- Established three preschools that serve as models of inclusion
- Co-located multiple services to improve accessibility and meet the needs of children and families
- Selected as the lead organization for a collaborative of organizations funded by First 5 San Mateo County to ensure the optimal development of all children
- One of the first organizations in our region to eliminate sub-minimum wages for adults we serve
- Expanded services to 13 locations in San Mateo County and Santa Clara County
- Formed a legacy society, with more than 80 individuals and families who have included Gatepath in their estate plans
- Spearheaded an advocacy campaign in 2019 resulting in the first systemwide rate increase for developmental disabilities service providers in two decades
- Merged with numerous organizations, most recently Abilities United, to build a stronger system of support for those we serve

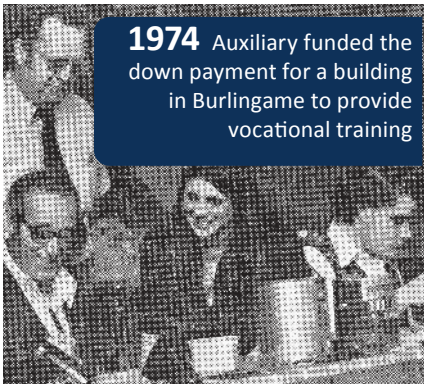
We're more eager than ever to work together with our supporters, including the Gatepath Auxiliary, to build an even more powerful and unified voice to influence positive change for those we serve. By working together, we can accomplish amazing things.

Thank you for being part of the Gatepath family and joining us in celebrating our 100th anniversary. I'm truly grateful for the privilege of serving our organization and advancing our vision of **acceptance**, **respect** and **inclusion** into the next century.

Sincerely,

Bryan Neider

Bryan Neider
CEO



WHAT DOES GATEPATH MEAN TO YOU?

"I'm proud I learned how to cook and read and write better. I'm excited to try more new things like technology, making new friends, and learning more independent living skills."

- Lenora Gibson, enrolled at Gatepath since 2003

"For me Gatepath means opportunity. I love that there is such an emphasis on growing and evolving here and that new ideas, goals and aspirations are so encouraged."

- Shay Barnett, Art Coordinator

Share your story with the hashtag #GatepathCelebrates100 or by e-mail to marketing@gatepath.org

GATEPATH AUXILIARY CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

The Auxiliary to the Society for Crippled Children and Adults of San Mateo County (now the Gatepath Auxiliary) was founded in 1950 to offer support and financial assistance to benefit individuals with special needs and developmental disabilities. The idea was conceived by Ruth Heimann, who gathered a small group of women and formed the Auxiliary with Mrs. Randolph (Catherine Campbell) Hearst as the first president.

Bambi Bisho, whose family was good friends with Catherine Hearst, joined the Auxiliary in 1958 and served as president in 1970-71. She is one of 85 women who have been members for at least 25 years! Before she became a member of the Auxiliary, Bambi recalls volunteering at our organization's nursery school for children with special needs. Bambi's mother wrote a copyrighted cookbook, *Epicure's Delight*, with royalties going first to the British War Relief then later to the Auxiliary.

To generate financial support, the Auxiliary also held numerous events and was known for their bazaar and galas. When they launched their first bridge tournament, which is still held today, Bambi's mother was in charge of the menu and Bambi ran the score boards! The annual Halloween Haunted House was a fundraising tradition from 1957 through the 1980s. For many years, the Auxiliary also ran a successful Resale Shop staffed entirely by members who volunteered their time. Donations totaling more than $5 million from the Auxiliary and its members have supported facility improvements, therapy equipment, vehicles, program supplies and much more.

Gatepath Auxiliary and Board Members meet with Senator Jerry Hill

The membership of 160 women continues its tradition of volunteerism, contributing more than 6,000 hours of service each year. In addition to fundraising, the Auxiliary has held many social events for those we serve. Today, adults in our program look forward to the annual holiday party and summer picnic. With guidance from its advocacy committee, which formed in FY2019, members have signed thousands of letters to various legislators and met with Senator Jerry Hill and Assemblymember Kevin Mullin to advocate for increased funding to support individuals with developmental disabilities.

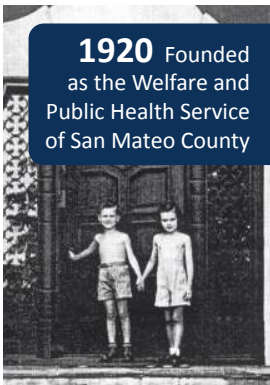
We are grateful to the entire Auxiliary for their dedication to our mission and steadfast support for 70 years!

1967 Bing Crosby is honorary chairman for fundraising campaign

1957 Rehabilitation Center opens, offering physical, occupational, and speech therapy

1950 Work program established (woman shows her first paycheck)

1950 Gatepath Auxiliary founded (pictured: Catherine Hearst and Ruth Heimann)



1920 Founded as the Welfare and Public Health Service of San Mateo County

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

3	East Palo Alto Family Wellness Group
5-14	The Changemakers Traveling Exhibition
17	Play & Connect Inclusive Parent-Child Group
18	Learning Links Mountain View Open House
19	Learning Links Burlingame Open House
26	**Bay Area Giving Day**
19	FREE Children's Dental Clinic

April

7	Burlingame Autism Parent Support Group
21	Play & Connect Inclusive Parent-Child Group

For more information visit: Gatepath.org/calendar

GATEPATH'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

POWER of POSSIBILITIES

Title Sponsor *Carole Middleton*

May 14, 2020

GATEPATH
100 YEARS OF IMPACT

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350 Twin Dolphin Drive, Suite 123
Redwood City, CA 94065
650-259-8500 | Gatepath.org

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We recently updated our database; please email development@gatepath.org with corrections or changes.

Stay Connected:

Double Your Impact!

BAY AREA GIVING DAY

March 26, 2020

Join us on Bay Area Giving Day to make a difference in the lives of children and adults with special needs. Your gift will help individuals achieve their full potential through Gatepath's lifespan of support services.

Plus, your contribution will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to $25,000, thanks to Janice Uccelli and an anonymous donor!

Together, we can create a world where people of all abilities are fully **accepted**, **respected** and **included**!

If you prefer to donate by check, please use the enclosed envelope.
Thank you for your support!

Better Together!

Celebrating after the Peninsula Health Care District Board votes to approve the cooperative housing project with Gatepath and Housing Choices

JOINING FORCES TO OPEN COOPERATIVE HOUSING

One of our strategic goals has been to expand Abilities United's strong Independent Living Skills program into San Mateo County. We are making that goal a reality! We recently announced a unique partnership with Peninsula Health Care District, Housing Choices and Golden Gate Regional Center to establish the first cooperative living home for adults with developmental disabilities in San Mateo County!

Peninsula Health Care District had the opportunity to purchase two five-bedroom homes in central San Mateo, creating the opportunity to make much-needed affordable housing available to adults with developmental disabilities. Our innovative partnership model will help address the housing needs of those we serve. In this nonprofit collaboration, Gatepath will provide Independent Living Skills services to residents through individualized one-on-one coaching that could include meal planning, shopping, cooking, public transportation, social skills, personal hygiene, budgeting and house cleaning.

Housing Choices, a nonprofit that pioneered the cooperative housing model in Santa Clara County, will assume the property management responsibilities. Each tenant will have a private bedroom and half-bath with a resident coordinator who helps facilitate the sharing of the home's common space but does not live on the property. It gives individuals greater independence while providing an affordable housing option that is also economically viable for service providers.

"We need to do all we can to build a healthier and more inclusive society and we can achieve that through integrated housing, which is a priority for the regional center," said Eric Zigman, Executive Director, Golden Gate Regional Center. "I am so grateful to all three organizations for joining together to make these homes available and affordable for those we serve."

We especially want to thank the Peninsula Health Care District, their CEO Cheryl Fama and their board of directors for making this innovative cooperative housing model possible.

Through our Independent Living Skills program, adults receive hands-on training at home and in the community.

OUR VISION: A world where people of all abilities are fully accepted, respected and included.

Better Together!

COLLABORATION MAKES US STRONGER

In the eight months since Abilities United became affiliated with Gatepath, the outcomes we have accomplished have proven that we are truly Better Together!

In this short time, our teams have learned from each other and started adopting best practices from each organization. Abilities United staff and programs have benefited from upgrades in technology and facilities. In addition, by combining our administrative functions, we have been able to realize significant savings in overhead costs, which has enabled us to increase wages, training and benefits for our direct care staff.

The unwavering support of our community has made our success possible. Thanks to you, we are creating greater opportunities for those we serve and improving our long-term sustainability. Your dedication, passion and commitment invigorate the work we do every day. We are grateful to you for empowering children and adults to achieve their full potential.

RENOVATIONS CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES

We are proud to announce that the facility updates to our building on Charleston Road in Palo Alto are almost finished! By consolidating and moving all of our administrative functions to our Redwood Shores office, we created an opportunity for our teams to explore new and innovative ways to use the space at Charleston Road. We are happy to report that we will be expanding our art and computer education programs, which will be named the Phil Egan Program for the Arts and the Jarrett Family Computer and Media Arts Program in recognition of their generous support.

The results of the facilities refresh are incredible! The open layout of the renovated space creates larger, more functional rooms for the art studio and computer lab. We will now be able to host gallery exhibitions to help artists in our program share their inspiring art with the community, and even sell more of their work to earn additional income.

Some of the renovations include:

- Removing carpet and creating a polished concrete floor throughout the entire space
- Updating both bathrooms to be ADA compliant and wheelchair accessible
- Replacing all appliances and cabinetry in the kitchen
- Creating meeting rooms with video conferencing, as well as staff drop-in stations and a lounge
- Installing HVAC to create a more comfortable environment
- Repainting the interior and exterior of the entire building

Special thanks to InsideSource and its CEO Dave Denny for donating all new furniture for the site; it looks fantastic! We are also grateful to the County of Santa Clara for their support and longstanding partnership allowing us to hold programs on this wonderful site.

A sneak peak at the renovations while we complete the finishing touches. (Clockwise: building exterior, computer lab, conference room, art studio)

We will be making similar upgrades to our Middlefield Road building in the coming months, improving the spaces utilized by our adult day program, our inclusive preschool and our children's therapy services.

All of us at Gatepath are very excited for the positive impact these improvements will make on the lives of those we serve!